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# Towards an Open & Collaborative Digital Platform to Improve African Urban Public Transport

DIGITAL **MATATUS**



#MondeEnCommun  
AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

# Objective this morning session: share experiences and future prospects on the creation of a resource center for paratransit

- **Agenda**

- Introduction: paratransit in a glance, role of digital technologies, transport data inequalities
- Feedback from field: Nairobi, Cairo, Akkra, Dakar
- Launching of the resources center for digital transport in Africa
- Discussion on next steps



# Introduction to paratransit sector

A key component of African urban mobility, where digital technologies are an opportunity for improved services

Antoine CHEVRE & Lise BREUIL  
SSATP Annual Meeting in Abuja, July 2018

# 1. What is paratransit? A wide range of local transport modes...



Delhi



Caracas



Istanbul



Bogota



Lima



Casablanca



Cape Town



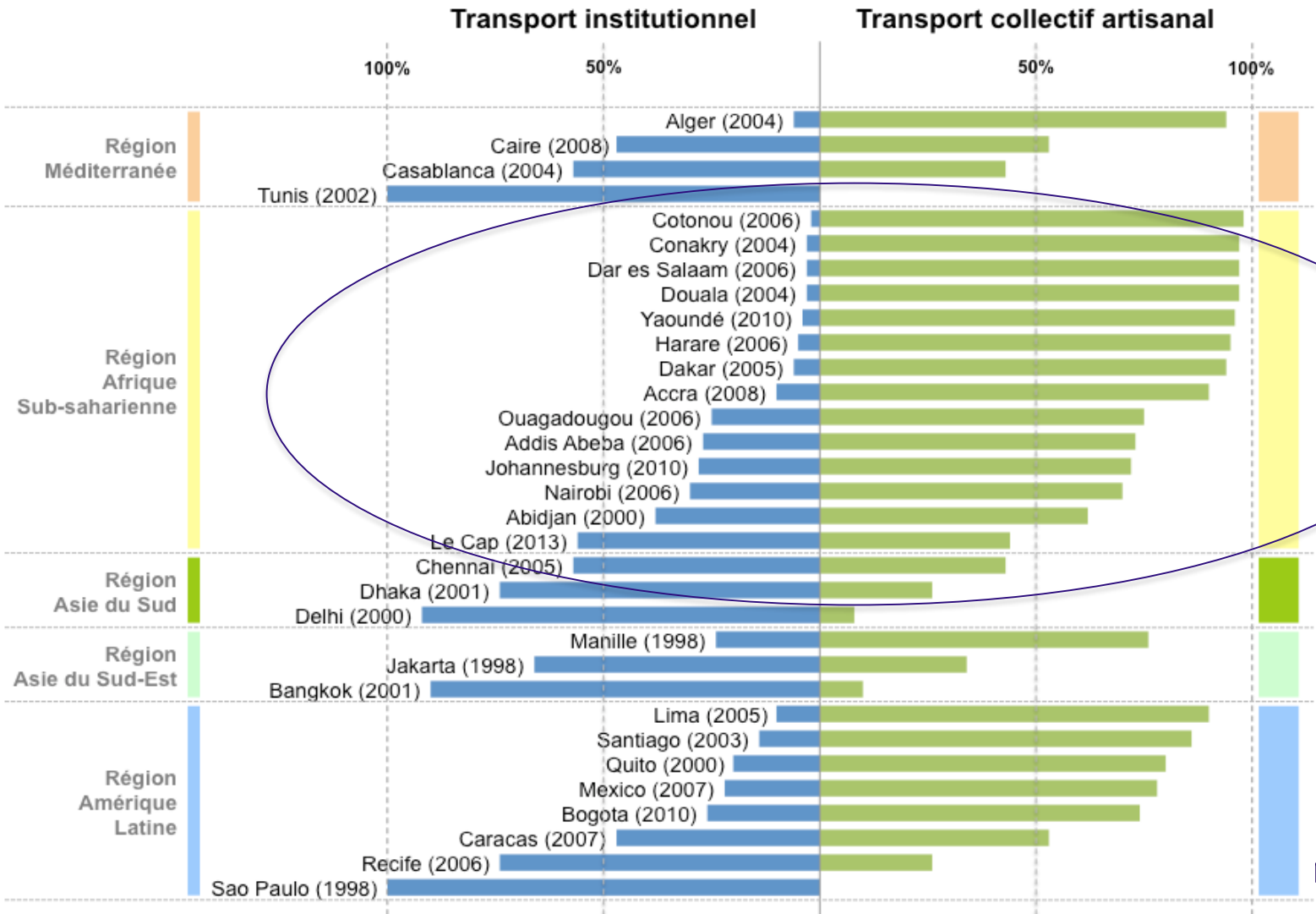
Nairobi



Santiago

- Flexible routes and departure times
- Fragmented private operators
- Mainly self-regulated, strong unions and political influence

# ...covering the major part of transport supply in African cities



# ...providing flexible services, at no cost for public authorities

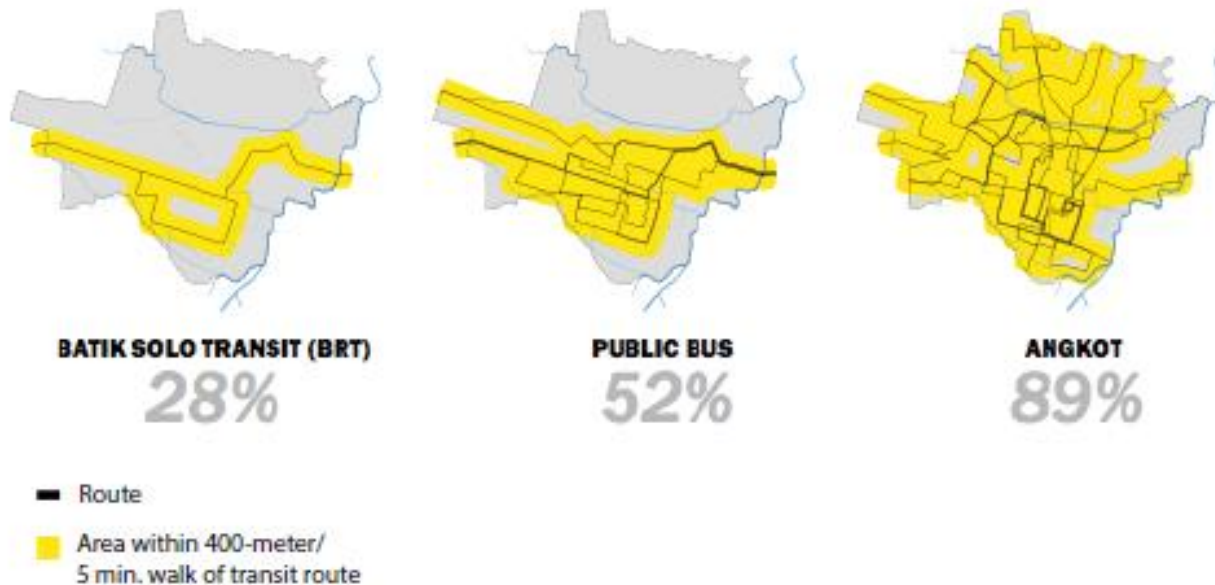


Figure 3: Comparison of spatial coverage between the BRT service, classic public bus and paratransit in Indonesia.

- Good spatial coverage and flexible service
- Good headway on peak hour
- Job creation
- No cost for public authorities (no subsidies)

# ...but with significant negative impacts



- Lack of comfort with poor levels of service
- Technical inefficiency and congestion
- Road safety
- Air pollution and CO2 emission
- Unfair competition with conventional transport sector

**Drawbacks appear with urban growth!**

# The challenge is to ensure transition of this sector toward an optimized mobility system



*Ex: Dakar fleet renewal  
for « cars rapides »*

## The long-term vision:

- **Integrate** them into the global mobility scheme (feeders, etc.)
- **Professionalise** the secteur and look for an « entrepreneur » approach
- **Improve standards** : vehicle confort, safety, energy efficiency

=> be able to contractualise with professional operators



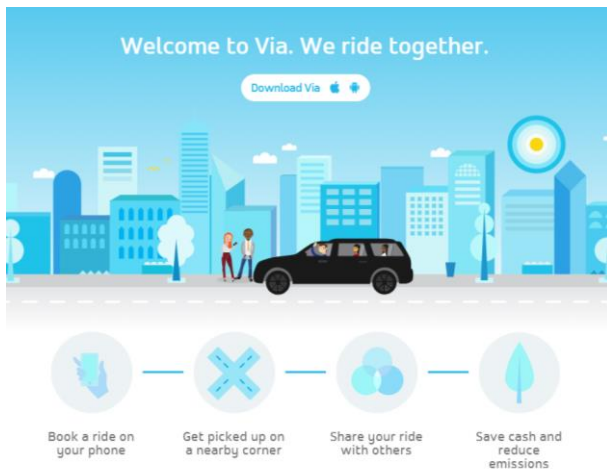
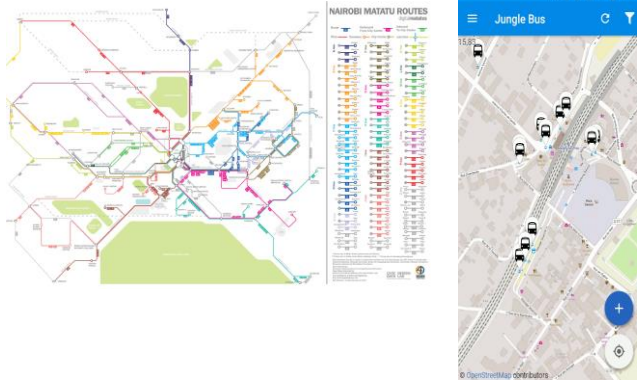
## 2. How to deal with the paratransit sector?



- Prerequisites : a better knowledge
  - Understand their financial model
  - Understand the regulation and the political powers
  - Understand the spatial coverage
- Driver for changes :
  - Massification of one corridor (ex: BRT) -> restructuring of lines with feeders
  - Road safety issues + climate issues -> fleet renewals

Vision : the challenge is to ensure **transition** of this sector **toward optimized and inclusive mobility system.**

# 3. Digital is a tremendous opportunity to develop a transition scheme for paratransit



- **Static information - Map the paratransit**
  - a political acknowledgement
  - a tool for planners
  - a tool for accountability (SDGs)
- **Dynamic information - Optimize ridership**
  - increased revenues
  - better service for users
- **Integrated ticketing - Intermodality**

# 5. Data are becoming critical infrastructure for urban transport



- Roles of public/private stakeholders will be redefined
- Public authorities need to build a strategy to build “digital commons”
  - Open data – universal format
  - Lively communities
- Role of IFIs :
  - A catalyzer
  - A producer/user of data

**Thank you for your attention**